



## Outstanding Start-up Entrepreneur of the Year Business Award

**PURPOSE:** To recognize small business entrepreneurs in Wright County who have demonstrated his/her ability to take risks, overcome challenges, and grow their business while making an economic impact and fostering economic vitality in Wright County.

There is no limit to the number of nominations one can submit. A personal interview may be requested by the committee.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- The nominee must be an entrepreneur of a business located in Wright County.
- Employ 1-50 people, including the owner.
- The business must have been operating for at least one year, but not more than five.
- The nominee does not need to be a member of the Wright County Economic Development Partnership.

### **CRITERIA:**

- Demonstrates a positive business growth rate over the last two years
- Shows continuous improvement
- Uses innovation and/ or new technology
- Demonstrates imagination and the ability to remain competitive
- Demonstrates community involvement
- Completes a written application with possible interview
- Willingness to attend the award ceremony on the third Friday of January

### **CATEGORIES:**

- Manufacturing – a company that creates, produces or adds value to products
- Retail – a company selling products to individual consumers
- Service – a company providing business to business or consumer services
- Agricultural business – value-added products and industry innovations

**JUDGING:** Nominees are evaluated based on the evidence and support presented in the nomination regarding the nature and scope of the accomplishments, and on the committee's own knowledge of the nominee's qualifications. The committee is NOT expected to undertake research into the qualification of nominees. If no qualified candidate is nominated, the committee may either extend the search deadline or opt not to give an award that year.

***Award committee members are excluded from consideration for this award during their term of service.***

The award committee will contact the nominee to confirm your nomination and obtain any other supporting documents. The nominee will be responsible for submitting a resume, biography and supporting documentation, along with a letter verifying the accuracy of the nomination form, accepting the nomination and agreeing to be present at the awards dinner, if selected.

**DEADLINE:** December 14, 2017



## APPLICATION

### **Nominee information:**

Company name -

Address -

Phone/email -

Type of business - (*Circle One*): Manufacturing   Retail   Service   Non-Profit

Number of employees -

Year business started -

Please provide a brief statement as to why this nominee should qualify as  
**Outstanding Start-up Entrepreneur of the Year.**

Please provide the statement and answer to the questions (*some or all*) and send to:

**The Wright County Economic Development Partnership**  
**P.O. Box 525, Rockford, MN 55373 or [mwuollett@wrightpartnership.org](mailto:mwuollett@wrightpartnership.org)**

**Please answer some or all of the following QUESTIONS:** (*use another sheet of paper if needed*)

How did your business get started?

How does your business identify its market need and niche?

What unique risks have the business and its owners taken in order to become successful?

What product and/or service innovations or any other notable achievement has your business brought to its industry or market?

What has been the trend in sales, employment size, expansion or other results that your business uses to measure its growth and progress?

How do your company and its owners support the local community and help improve the quality of life in the area?

How do the owners and other leaders of the organization train and support employee development and benefits?

How do the owners and other leaders of the organization communicate with, suppliers, customers and staff?

How do the owners and other leaders of the organization solve problems and plan for company's future?

What are your long-term plans?

### **Nominator information:**

Your name & title

Organization

Address

Phone/email